Auction of oil and gas blocks in NELP-VIII

566. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

SHRI R. C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's largest ever auction of oil and gas blocks in NELP-VIII received a poor response from private and global players in the hydrocarbon industry;

(b) if so, the reasons for poor response to the auction of blocks under NELP-VIII;

(c) whether in view of poor response Government proposes to allocate gas and oil blocks under NELP-VIII to the State owned agencies such as ONGC, Oil etc.; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Out of 70 blocks offered under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), bids were received for 36 blocks. The response can not be considered as poor in view of global economic melt-down and also in comparison to the responses received by several other countries during recent bidding rounds. Accordingly to preliminary estimates, the committed investment in NELP-VIII is about US$1.34 billion, which is more than the committed investment of US$ 1.22 billion in NELP-VII.

(c) and (d) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), blocks for exploration of oil and gas are offered through international competitive bidding process. National Oil Companies(NOCs) and private companies bid on a level playing field on transparent Bid Evaluation Criteria(BEC). The blocks are awarded to the eligible company (ies) which gets the maximum points on quantifiable BEC.

Leakage of oil in Sitapur depot at Jaipur

†567. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil in Sitapur depot of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) had been leaking for many days and no efforts were made to plug it;

(b) the total stock of oil that was available in Sitapur depot;

(c) whether it is a fact that surrounding area has been engulfed in darkness with black smoke containing poisonous gases like carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen-oxide after the depot caught fire at Sitapur;

(d) the number of deaths and the number of injured labourers hospitalized as a result of fire; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether a large number of animals and birds have also been killed in the area due to black smoke?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) IOC has reported that a leakage of Motor Spirit (Petrol) from the blind valve of one of MS Tank no. 401A occurred around 1815 hrs on 29.10.2009 causing formation of vapor cloud which spread in the entire area of the oil terminal. As the personnel on duty at that time fell unconscious and the density of vapor cloud prevented others to approach the leakage, subsequent formation of vapor cloud continued.

(b) Total stock of petroleum product (including MS, HSD & SKO) available at the time of fire in the Depot was estimated at around 50,260 Kilo Litres.

(c) and (e) Damage caused to the environment is being investigated by Rajasthan Pollution Control Board.

(d) Death of 11 persons has been confirmed of whom six are employees of IOC. 07 persons have suffered serious injuries. 28 persons have suffered minor injuries.

Joining of IOC with Nuclear Power Corporation

568. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is planning to enter nuclear power generation through a joint venture with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL);

(b) if so, the status of this joint venture regarding establishing and commissio-ning of such power generation plants;

(c) whether the sources of regular feed stock has been identified as there is a shortage of nuclear fuel even for the existing nuclear power plants; and

(d) if so, what is the likely installed capacity of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) IOC has signed an MoU on 4.11.2009 with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for its venture into Nuclear Power. Various opportunities available in the field of nuclear energy and the role to be played by both the parties with a view to define their participation will be firmed up.

(c) and (d) The Techno-commercial modalities, including source of nuclear fuel and installed capacity shall be firmed up in due course of time.

Allocation of natural gas produced in RIL

569. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: